



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
Commissioner

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**DECAL posting Georgia's Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS)  
Funding Allocations to Web Site**

*Officials say new information is part of its overall commitment to transparency*

**ATLANTA, Ga.**, (February 1, 2013) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has announced that beginning February 1, 2013, it will begin posting to its web site county-by-county funding allocations from Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program. The federally-funded subsidized child care program helps working families with low incomes pay for early care and education. During fiscal year 2012 (October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012) over 84,000 children across Georgia received CAPS services.

"DECAL allocates a portion of the funds for CAPS to each of Georgia's 159 counties," said Carol Hartman, assistant commissioner for programs. "Funding locally promotes access to early care and education services for eligible working families. DECAL contracts with Georgia's Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine eligibility and provide case management services for families receiving CAPS."

"As a public agency working on behalf of the citizens and taxpayers of Georgia, DECAL is committed to transparency," said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. "As a result, DECAL is taking the initiative to post CAPS funding allocations for each county for the fiscal year and report each county's expenditures year to date on the DECAL website."

In July, 2012, Governor Nathan Deal moved the CAPS program from DHS to DECAL as part of his FY 2013 budget, which was signed on May 7, 2012. The move provided an opportunity for early childhood education programs such as CAPS, Child Care Licensing, Georgia's Pre-K Program, Nutrition and Quality Initiatives to be unified under one agency, providing a more comprehensive and economical approach to early child care education in Georgia.

## **DECAL posting CAPS funding allocations to Web Site – Page 2**

CAPS funding allocations can be accessed on the DECAL web site at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/CAPS.aspx>.

Georgia residents can apply for child care online with Georgia COMPASS at [www.compass.ga.gov](http://www.compass.ga.gov). Georgia COMPASS allows customers to check their potential eligibility and apply for child care online. Customers, who create an account in Georgia COMPASS can check the status of their application online and renew their benefits. You can also reach the CAPS program at 404.657.3434.

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).